

Dear FCC Commissioners,

I have read every one of the comments submitted to this point in regards to NPRM 05-235. I have tried to keep an open mind in reading them, both pro code and anti code. I am a licensed tech ham. First let me state that I am the county communications officer for my home county which entails the up keep, training and use of various radio equipment. I am also the RACES officer and county ARES coordinator for the county along with being the skywarn coordinator. I also own my own business. This should help dispel the thought that because I'm a tech. That I must be some lazy, dumb, stupid, want something for nothing individual. Just an individual that has had no interest in learning an old mode of operation with all the other modes available.

A lot if not most of the pro code folks state that in an emergency when conditions are bad code would be the only mode to work. I find that hard to accept as a legitimate statement. My question and a legitimate one I think is, When and what event was the last time CW was the one and only means of communication during an emergency? Was it a long duration or short time emergency, was it truly the only mode that was available. Is there any documentation to support their claim? Even during the hurricanes and listening to the nets, all traffic is passed with phone. Some refer to the hundreds of lives that have been saved by CW, Maybe 40-50 years ago but not recently, if so lets see the documentation. I feel that with all the modes available to one today that this is more of a scare tactic then a fact. A couple even refer to the movie Independence Day and how CW was the mode that saved the world from the aliens, now that's a reach to reality.

Along the lines of emergency communications and home land security, during our last two full scale exercises the only radio operators other then county employees to show up or participate were all tech operators. All ham traffic to and from the EOC and the field communications trailer (15 miles apart) were either phone, packet or PSK-31 as well as traffic out of the area using 2 meters and 70 centimeters FM and SSB . Our EOC was on emergency power as well as the communications trailer. As part of the last full scale exercise we disabled the county LGR, sheriff's and fire department repeaters for part of the exercise which in effect left them dependant on the hams to move their logistics and coordination traffic between the EOC and communications trailer.

Since July 19th when your NPRM came out I have done an unscientific pole of apx. 50 extra class operators, some 20 wpm and some 5 wpm operators, out of that 50 only 9 have used code and out of that 9 only 3 use code on a regular basis, the balance learned code to gain the privileges and have not used or even remember the code. One of the fellows I quizzed even went so far as to tell me that only REAL hams know code, but admitted to having not used it as a mode in over a year. When I questioned him on his comment and the fact that he'd not used it in a years time his response was " Well I had to learn it so your gonna have to learn it" As far as it being a filter to keep the lazy, dumb, stupid, want something for nothing folks out, take a listen to the bands any evening and you will hear all kinds of stupidity, and when you look up the call "if they use it" the majority of the time it's the older

20 wpm code operators doing the worst offenses. They will even try to convince you that it is the DUMB down 5 wpm extras that are doing it, all a person needs do is look up their call and see that this is contrary to the fact. As for the ham bands turning into CB, if we police our self's as we are suppose to do this will never happen.

It also appears that may of the respondents have not read, or did not comprehend the full NPRM and that you have not proposed to eliminate the CW portions of the band just eliminate the test requirement. Maybe a typing, spelling, grammar test would be more in line after reading some of the comments.

As I stated in my opening, I have read all the comments to date and did so with an open mind having not made up my mind either way. But after reading all the comments pro and con I have yet to read a real legitimate reason to keep the code testing requirement for any of the classes of operators. Yes there is a tradition to CW, yes it works under severe conditions (but so do some of the new digital modes) yes we need to leave CW as a mode of operation, yes we need to leave and protect the lower ends of the bands for CW work, but CW is nothing more then a mode of choice for those who choose to learn and use it. Bottom line, will CW not stand on it's own merit, will it not draw it's own operators as has some of the other modes?

There definitely was a time when CW testing was a legitimate requirement. That time has passed. It is time for CW to be eliminated as a test requirement for all classes!

We need to encourage people of all ages to remain or become involved in ham radio and the CW requirement does not do that in fact it chases people away.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my 2 cents worth.

Daniel Walz